

TRANSPORTATION CABINET

KENTUCKY BICYCLE AND BIKEWAYS COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(Amendment)

601 KAR 14:020. Bicycle safety standards.

RELATES TO: KRS 189.030(1)

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 189.287

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 189.287 requires the cabinet to promulgate administrative regulations to establish standards for bicycle safety and equipment. This administrative regulation establishes requirements related to equipment and safety in the operation of a bicycle.

Section 1. Definitions. (1) "Bicycle" means a device propelled solely by human power upon which a person may ride astride on an attached seat regardless of the number and size of the wheels in contact with the ground, except a wheelchair designed for a person with a disability, or a device designed solely for use as a play vehicle for a child.

(2) "Hazard" means a condition present on the roadway that constitutes a danger to a bicycle rider such as a:

(a) Fixed or moving object;

(b) Parked or moving vehicle;

(c) Pedestrian;

1 (d) Surface irregularity; or

2 (e) An animal.

3 (3) "Shared lane" means a single lane of traffic less than fourteen (14) feet in width not
4 including the gutter pan.

5
6 Section 2. Front Lights. A bicycle operated on a highway during the hours or atmospheric
7 conditions described in KRS 189.030(1) shall display at least one (1) front light on either the
8 bicycle or the bicyclist that is visible for 500 feet and capable of revealing substantial objects at
9 least fifty (50) feet in front of the bicycle.

10
11 Section 3. Rear Lights or Reflectors. (1) A bicycle if operated on a highway or highway shoulder
12 shall display on either the bicycle or the bicyclist:

13 (a) One (1) red reflector or red light visible for at least 100 feet from the rear of the bicycle; and

14 (b) One (1) red light or a flashing red light visible from the rear of the bicycle for at least 500 feet
15 during the hours or atmospheric conditions described in KRS 189.030(1).

16
17 Section 4. Horn or Bell. (1) A bicycle may be equipped with a bell, horn, or other device capable
18 of making an abrupt sound, but shall not be equipped with a siren or whistle.

19 (2) Every person operating a bicycle shall shout or sound the bell, horn, or other sound
20 device as necessary to warn pedestrians or other bicycles of the approach of the bicycle.

1 Section 5. Brakes. A bicycle shall not be operated on a highway or highway shoulder without a
2 brake or brakes adequate to control the movement of, and to stop the bicycle within 15 feet from a
3 speed of 10 miles per hour on dry, level, clean pavement.

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5 Section 6. Seat. A bicyclist if operating on a highway or highway shoulder shall ride astride a seat
6 attached to the bicycle.

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8 Section 7. Passengers. (1)(a) A bicycle, if operated on a highway or highway shoulder, shall not
9 carry more than the number of persons for which the bicycle is designed or is safely equipped.

10 (b) A bicyclist may transport a person in a seat or carrying device attached to the bicycle in a
11 manner in which the seat or device is manufactured and designed to be used.

12
13 Section 8. Packages. A bicyclist, if operating on a highway or highway shoulder, shall not carry a
14 package, bundle, or article that prevents the operator from keeping one (1) hand on the handle
15 bars.

16
17 Section 9. Prohibition Against Attaching to Motor Vehicles. A bicyclist, if operating on a highway
18 or highway shoulder, shall not attach either the bicycle or himself or herself to a motor vehicle.

19
20 Section 10. Operation of Bicycles. A bicycle shall be operated in the same manner as a motor
21 vehicle except the following traffic conditions shall apply:

1 (1) A bicycle may be operated on the shoulder of a highway unless prohibited by law or
2 ordinance. Places where shoulder bicycle travel is prohibited shall be clearly marked with signs.
3 Where bicycle travel on shoulders is permitted, it shall not be required.

4 (2) (a) If a highway lane is marked for the exclusive use of bicycles, the operator of a
5 bicycle shall use the lane unless:

- 6 1. Travelling at the legal speed;
- 7 2. Preparing for or executing a left turn;
- 8 3. Passing a slower moving vehicle;
- 9 4. Avoiding a hazard;
- 10 5. Avoiding the door zone of a parked vehicle; or
- 11 6. Approaching a driveway or intersection where vehicles are permitted to turn right
12 from a lane left of the bicycle lane.

13 (3) Not more than two (2) bicycles shall be operated abreast in a single highway lane unless
14 part of the roadway is exclusively for bicycle use. Persons riding two abreast shall not impede the
15 normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

16 (4) Bicycle operation in a highway lane shared with other vehicle types shall be
17 governed by the slow vehicle rules of KRS 189.300 (2) unless:

- 18 (a) Preparing for and executing a left turn;
- 19 (b) Passing a slower moving vehicle;

1 (c) The right lane is too narrow to be considered a shared lane. In this case, a bicycle may be
2 ridden far enough to the left to prevent overtaking vehicles from attempting to pass in the same
3 lane;

4 (d) Approaching an intersection or driveway where right-turn movements are permitted. In this
5 case a bicycle may be ridden far enough to the left to avoid potential conflicts with right turning
6 vehicles;

7 (e) It is necessary to avoid a hazard. A bicyclist may operate far enough to the left to provide a
8 reasonable safety space to the right;

9 (f) The bicycle is operating on a one (1) way street with two (2) or more marked traffic in which
10 case a bicyclist may ride as near as practicable to the left side of the roadway subject to the
11 conditions in subsections (b) through (e);

12 (g) It is necessary for a cyclist to use a lane other than the right lane to continue his or her route.

13 (5) A bicycle may be operated on a sidewalk or a crosswalk unless prohibited by law or
14 ordinance. Bicyclists operating on a sidewalk or crosswalk shall have all the rights and duties
15 applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances as prescribed by KRS 189.570. Where
16 bicycle use is permitted on a sidewalk, it shall not be required or encouraged. A bicyclist using a
17 sidewalk or crosswalk shall:

18 (a) Slow to the speed of an ordinary walk where pedestrians are present or if approaching a
19 crosswalk, driveway, or other crossing where a motor vehicle is present; and

20 (b) not suddenly leave the sidewalk or crosswalk and move into the path of another vehicle that
21 is close enough to constitute an immediate hazard.

1 (6) A bicyclist operating on a highway or highway shoulder may proceed against a red
2 light if a traffic signal fails to detect the bicycle.

3
4 Section 11. Bicycle Parking. (1) A bicycle may be parked on a sidewalk:

- 5 (a) Unless prohibited or restricted by an official traffic control device; or
6 (b) If it does not impede the movement of pedestrians or other traffic.

7 (2) A bicycle may be parked in the roadway at any angle to the curb or edge of the
8 roadway at a location where parking is allowed.

9 (3) A bicycle shall not be parked or stopped as established in KRS 189.450(b) through
10 (j).

11 (4) A bicycle may be parked on the roadway abreast of another bicycle or bicycles near
12 the side of the roadway at a location where parking of vehicles is allowed.

13
14 Section 12. Bicycle racing. (a) Bicycle racing may be allowed on a roadway if it has been
15 approved by the state or local authorities.

16 (b) Approval for a bicycle highway racing event shall be granted if conditions:

- 17 1. Assure reasonable safety for participants, spectators, and other highway users; and
18 2. Prevent unreasonable interference with traffic flow.

19 (c) A cyclist is exempt from compliance with traffic laws while racing if:

- 20 1. Controls are in place to reasonably assure the safety of all highway users; and
21 2. The authorities approving the race are in agreement that a cyclist may be exempt.